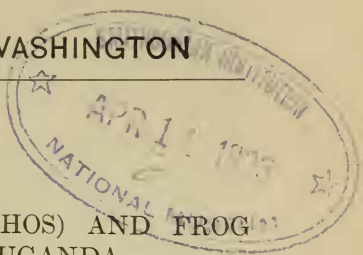


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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NEW RACES OF A SKINK (SIAPHOS) AND FROG  
(XENOPUS) FROM THE UGANDA  
PROTECTORATE.

BY ARTHUR LOVERIDGE.

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Recently, while engaged in the identification of some herpetological material collected in Uganda for the Field Museum of Natural History by Mr. Edmund Heller, I came across two races so well differentiated from the typical forms that they merit description.

Perhaps the smooth-clawed frog should be regarded as a full species but it appears to be connected with the typical form by *Xenopus laevis victorianus* Ahl (1924, Zool. Anz. Leipzig, 60, p. 270) which was based on a single specimen. In 1925 I advanced reasons for regarding *victorianus* as a synonym of *laevis*, but having collected a series in Lake Victoria recently I think that the form may be recognized, though not on the structural characters suggested by its author.

*Siaphos meleagris helleri*, subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Field Museum of Natural History, No. 12,749, an adult ♀, from Bugongo Ridge, 9,500 feet, Mt. Ruwenzori, Uganda, collected by Edmund Heller in 1925.

*Diagnosis*.—Differs from the typical form from the Mubuku Valley, 7,000 feet, Mt. Ruwenzori, Uganda, in the following characters. Nostril in an undivided nasal; prefrontals well developed instead of minute; eight instead of five supraciliaries as given in both figure and description of *meleagris*; nine instead of twelve lamellae under the second and third toes (normally the third and fourth); back spotted with black instead of with white.

*Description*.—Body much elongate, limbs small, with four fingers and four toes; the distance between the end of the snout and the fore limb contained two and a third times in the distance between the axilla and groin. Snout very short, obtuse; lower eyelid scaly; nostril pierced in a

single nasal; no supranasal; frontonasal broader than long, its suture with the rostral three times as long as its suture with the frontal; prefrontals well developed; frontal as long as the frontoparietals in contact with the first and second supraoculars; 8 supraciliaries; frontoparietals distinct, larger than the interparietal; parietals forming a suture behind the interparietal; a pair of nuchals; fourth upper labial below the centre of the eye; ear-opening minute, about as large as the nostril; 22 smooth scales around the middle of the body; median preanals scarcely enlarged. The length of the hind limb equals the distance between the anterior border of the eye and the fore limb; second and third toes (normally the third and fourth, the hallux being absent) almost equal, with 9 lamellae inferiorly. Tail long and thick.

*Coloration.*—Above, pale chestnut spotted with black, these spots coalescing anteriorly to form four longitudinal lines on the nape, an irregular black streak from nostril through the eye to above the fore limb where it breaks up into spots; limbs spotted with black. Below, throat and belly immaculate white, tail heavily spotted with black, on the sides of the tail the spots form streaks.

<i>Measurements.</i> —Total length.....	162 mm.
Length of head.....	8 mm.
Width of head.....	5 mm.
Length of body.....	54 mm.
Length of fore limb.....	9 mm.
Length of hind limb.....	12 mm.
Length of tail.....	100 mm.

In 1924 Dr. J. C. Phillips brought back some sun-dried frogs from Kissalo Market; their condition was such that they could not be used for taxonomic studies. Three years later Dr. J. Bequaert procured two apparently similar frogs from Lake Bunyoni; at the time Dr. T. Barbour and I agreed that these probably represented a new form, but assuming that they were immature, decided to let them wait the assembling of more material. Recently, however, I had occasion to dissect one of these frogs and was surprised to find it fully adult, though so small. This new race may be called

*Xenopus laevis bunyoniensis*, subsp. nov.

*Xenopus laevis* Loveridge (part), 1925, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, p. 766 (Kissalo Market record). Barbour & Loveridge, 1930, in Strong, "African Republic of Liberia and the Belgian Congo," 2, p. 791 (Lake Bunyoni record).

*Type.*—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 14,616. An adult ♀ from Bufundi on western shore of Lake Bunyoni, Kigezi district, South-western Uganda, collected by Dr. Joseph Bequaert on April 5th, 1927.

*Paratypes.*—One hundred and seventy-three specimens, viz.: Museum of Comparative Zoology Nos. 10,288–10,292 from Kissalo Market (possibly these frogs came from Lake Chahafi, which is nearer Kissalo than is Lake

Bunyoni) purchased by Dr. J. C. Phillips, April 9th, 1924. Museum of Comparative Zoology No. 14,617 with same data as type. American Museum of Natural History Nos. 40,375–40,432 with same data as type but collected by Dr. J. P. Chapin. Field Museum of Natural History Nos. 12,177–12,181, being ninety-nine specimens collected in Lake Bunyoni by Mr. Edmund Heller in 1925.

*Diagnosis*.—Distinguished from the typical form by its smaller size, breeding from 35 mm., maximum length of one hundred and seventy-four specimens 53 mm. (also a ♀; F. M. N. H. No. 12,177) as against 84 mm. in *X. l. laevis*; narrower habit, the greatest width at midbody being equal to, or only a trifle broader than, the greatest width of the head (as against  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{2}{3}$  in *X. l. laevis*); the black claws are slender and conical (instead of broad and flattened); ventral surface flecked and spotted with black. Only three specimens have immaculate thighs and belly, a rather higher percentage have the belly, or a part of it, unspotted.

*Measurements*.—Type ♀. Length of head and body 35 mm., breadth of head 12 mm., breadth of body 12 mm., length of head to angle of jaw 7 mm., length of snout from front of eye 4 mm., length of hind limb from anus 45 mm., length of fourth toe 14 mm.